I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class May, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Boy 7450, Act and A 22313/1450.

Dated: July 7, 2006 Signature:

Dated: July 7, 2006

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2144 DIV II

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Lance Middleton

: Group Art Unit: 3738 Application No.: 10/672,327

: Examiner: B. E. Snow Filed: September 26, 2003

For: ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC

## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2006 and Advisory Action dated June 9, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-11 and 13-15, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: